Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Collage making apparatus~~ Apparatus for assisting in the reproduction of ~~a collage~~ an arrangement of at least one object by duplication apparatus comprising a layout area contained within said ~~collage making~~ apparatus, said layout area accommodating the at least one object ~~that is to be contained in said collage~~, said ~~collage making~~ apparatus being convertible between a layout mode and a duplication mode, said layout area being observable by a user during the layout mode so that the user may observe ~~an~~ the arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area, the layout area being reproducible by said duplication apparatus during the duplication mode so that said duplication apparatus produces a copy of the arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a backing member, said backing member defining said layout area; and

a transparent cover member operatively associated with said backing member so that said transparent cover member can be moved between a first position and a second position, said transparent cover member exposing said layout area when said transparent cover member is in the first position, said transparent cover member covering said layout area when said transparent cover member is in the second position, said transparent cover member also securing the at least one object contained within said layout area when said transparent cover member is in the second position.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 2, wherein said transparent cover member comprises a plate glass member.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 2, wherein said backing member comprises a plate glass member.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a hinge member attached to said backing member and to said transparent cover member, said hinge member allowing said transparent cover member to be pivoted with respect to said backing member between the first position and the second position.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 5, wherein said transparent cover member includes a first edge and a second edge, wherein said backing member includes a first edge and a second edge, wherein said hinge member is attached to the first edge of said transparent cover member and to the first edge of said backing member, and wherein the second edge of said transparent cover member engages the second edge of said backing member when said transparent cover member is in the second position.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 5, wherein said hinge member is fully articulating.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a backing member, said backing member defining said layout area; and

a template member operatively associated with said backing member so that said template member can be moved between a first position and a second position, said

template member including at least one opening therein, said template member exposing said layout area when said template member is in the first position, said template member covering a portion of said layout area when said template member is in the second position, the at least one opening in said template member exposing a portion of the at least one object contained within said layout area when said template member is in the second position.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 8, wherein said template member secures the at least one object contained within said layout area when said template member is in the second position.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a sticker, said sticker removably adhering to said ~~collage making~~ apparatus or to a duplicating bed of said duplication apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a paper sheet having a first side and a second side, the first side of said paper sheet having a background motif preprinted thereon, said paper sheet allowing said duplication apparatus to produce a copy of the arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area overlaying the background motif on the first side of said paper sheet.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a background pattern selected by said user, said background pattern being preprogrammed into said duplication apparatus or a computer operatively associated with said duplication apparatus, said background pattern allowing said duplication apparatus to produce a copy of the arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area overlaying the background pattern.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Collage making apparatus~~ Apparatus for assisting in the reproduction of ~~a collage~~ an arrangement of at least one object by duplication apparatus, comprising:

~~collage making~~ means for defining a layout area contained with said ~~collage making~~ means, said layout area accommodating the at least one object that is to be contained in the arrangement ~~said collage~~, said ~~collage making~~ means being convertible between a layout mode and a duplication mode, said layout area being observable by a user during the layout mode so that the user may observe ~~an~~ the arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area, the layout area being reproducible by said duplication apparatus during the duplication mode so that said duplication apparatus produces a copy of the arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Collage making apparatus~~ Apparatus for assisting in the reproduction of ~~a collage~~ an arrangement of at least one object by duplication apparatus comprising a layout area contained within said ~~collage making~~ apparatus, said layout area accommodating the at least one object ~~that is to be contained in said collage~~, said ~~collage making~~ apparatus being convertible between a layout mode and a duplication mode,

when in said layout mode, the at least one object being freely moveable by a user within said layout area and said layout area being observable by the user so that the user may observe an arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area;

when in said duplication mode, said layout area being reproducible by said duplication apparatus during the duplication mode so that said duplication apparatus produces a copy of the arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Collage making apparatus~~ Apparatus for assisting in the reproduction of ~~a collage~~ an arrangement of at least one object by duplication apparatus, said ~~collage making~~ apparatus comprising:

a backing member, said backing member defining a layout area, said layout area accommodating the at least one object ~~that is to be contained in said collage~~; and

a cover member operatively associated with said backing member so that said cover member can be moved between a first position and a second position, said cover member exposing said layout area when said cover member is in the first position so that the at least one object ~~that is to be contained in said collage~~ is freely moveable within said layout area, said cover member securing the at least one object contained within said layout area when said cover member is in the second position.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~collage making~~ apparatus of claim 15, wherein said cover member is transparent, said transparent cover member covering substantially an entirety of said layout area when said transparent cover member is in the second position.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said backing member is provided with at least one fastener, said at least one fastener securing the at least one object within said layout area.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said backing member is provided with a design thereon.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said cover member comprises a template member having at least one opening therein.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the at least one opening in said template member exposes at least a portion of the layout area when said cover member is in the first position.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said template member is provided with a design thereon.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said cover member is attached to said backing member by adhesive tape.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said cover member is pivotally attached to said backing member.

24. (New) A method, comprising:

providing a backing member that defines a layout area and a cover member operatively associated with the backing member so that the cover member can be moved between at least a first position and a second position, the cover member exposing the layout area of the backing member when the cover member is in the first position;

positioning at least one object in the layout area of the backing member;

moving the cover member to the second position to secure the at least one object in the layout area;

positioning the cover member adjacent a duplicating bed of duplication apparatus so that the arrangement of the at least one object; and

operating said duplication apparatus to capture an image of the arrangement of the at least one object within said layout area.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising moving the cover member to the first position before positioning the at least one object in the layout area.